**Australia: The First People**

**Aboriginals: Who are they?**

* Indigenous Australians, or Australian Aborigines, are native people of Australia.
* They used weapons like BLANK to kill animals for food.
* Many suffered when white people from Britain arrived in Australia, because of BLANK, and the loss of their BLANK.

**History**

* First people of Australia were nomadic people who came to Australia from southeast Asia.
* Happened about BLANK years ago.
* When British came to Australia in 1788, they called these native people “BLANK”, meaning people who had lived there since the earliest times.
* They travelled through the bush, hunting with spears and boomerangs (BLANK) and searching for food such as plants, grubs, and insects, and hunting for animals.
* They had few possessions and made everything they needed. This way of life does not change or harm the fragile environment of Australia. The well-being of the land, and its plants and animals are vital and sacred to the aboriginal people.

**Stolen Generations**

* The BLANK (also known as BLANK) were the children of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who were removed from their families by the Australian Federal and State government agencies and church missions, under acts of their respective parliaments.
* The removals occurred in the period between approximately BLANK,although in some places children were still being taken until the 1970s.
* Today there are about BLANK Aborigines in Australia. Most live in cities, but a few thousand still try to follow a traditional way of life. Aborigines have a unique way of traveling around, they use songs passed from generation to generation.

**Dreamtime**

* Aboriginal Australians believe that they have animal, plant, and human ancestors who created the world and everything in it.
* This process of creation is called BLANK.
* There are many songs and stories about Dreamtime, which generations of aboriginal people have passed down to their children. Say someone dies they get a new life as a plant or another person

**Didgeridoo**

* The BLANK is an Australian Aboriginal wind musical instrument
* Used by the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land
* Usually played sitting down as they can be quite long, anywhere from BLANK (3 to 10 ft) long. Most are around 1.2 m (4 ft) long
* It is difficult to know when didgeridoos were first used. Studies of rock art in Arnhem Land show that it has been in use for more than BLANK years. A rock painting in Ginga Wardelirrhmeng, on the northern edge of the Arnhem Land plateau, dates from the freshwater period. It shows a didgeridoo player and two singers playing in a ceremony.

**Urban Life**

* Most aboriginal Australian live in cities and towns. Some have benefitted from government education and aid programmes and have careers as teachers, doctors and lawyers.
* Many, though, are poor and isolated from white society. They have lost touch with traditional aboriginal tribal ways, and because they do not fit neatly into white Australian society, they cannot share its benefits. However, they revive interest in the BLANK.

**Land Claims**

* When British people came to live in Australia, they decided that the land was empty, that nobody "BLANK" the land, in the way Europeans defined that word. This was called "Terra nullius", Latin words for "BLANK".Under British law, all land belongs to the king,who is then able to sell it to other people.
* In 1976, the Australian government agreed that aboriginal people have rights to the land where their tribes were originally located and gained the BLANK.
* On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia said that the idea of "Terra nullius" was wrong, and the government brought in new laws, to set up Native Title.
* If aborigines can prove they have always used particular land, it has not been sold, or changed by government acts, then the land could be claimed as aboriginal land.

**The Flag**

* The Australian Aboriginal Flag is a flag that represents Indigenous Australians.
* One of the official "Flags of Australia", and holds special legal and political status, but it is not the "BLANK".
* Flag was originally designed for the land rights movement, and it became a symbol of the Aboriginal people of Australia.

The symbolic meaning of the flag colours (as stated by Harold Thomas) is:

* BLANK: Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia
* BLANK: Represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land
* BLANK: Represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector

**Case Study: Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park**

**History**

* The Anangu people believe that Uluru, and the rest of Central Australia, was formed by BLANK. The Anangu are directly descended from these ancestors.
* Modern science shows that they have lived around Uluru for more than BLANK years.
* They continued to live their traditional life until the 1930s. This was a nomadic life, moving around to hunt and gather food according to the seasons.
* They have a complex ceremonial life based around Uluru. They are one of the oldest human societies on earth.
* The first Europeans to see Uluru were explorers led by William Christie Gosse.
* He saw Uluru on 19 July 1873 and named it Ayers Rock after Sir Henry Ayers, who was Chief Secretary of South Australia.
* The land was too dry and remote for farming, and very few people came to Uluru until the mid 20th century.

**Tourism -**Uluru Base Walk

* BLANK, 3.5 hrs, dry weather wheelchair access
* Used to be able to climb to the top, but stopped at Aborigines request.

**Uluru**

* Uluru, also called BLANK, is a name given to a huge rock near Alice Springs in the Australian Outback.
* This is a holy place for Australian aborigines.
* It is in the BLANK, in the middle of Australia
* It was listed as a BLANK in 1987 because of its geology. In 1997 it was again listed as a World Heritage site, this time because of its importance to the Anangu people.
* It was the second place in the world to be listed as culturally significant, and it is one of the few places in the world to have two listings.

**Kata Tjuta**

* Kata Tjuta, sometimes written Tjuṯa (Kata Joota), and also known as BLANK, is a group of large rock formations in the Northern Territory of Australia. It is located about 365 km (227 mi) southwest of Alice Springs. Kata Tjuta and Uluru, 25 km (16 mi) to the east, make up the two focus points of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.
* The rock is a sedimentary rock made up of clusters of different types of rock (including granite and basalt), covered in sandstone.
* There are BLANK domes covering an area of 21.68 km2 (8.37 sq mi).
* The highest point, Mount Olga, is 1,066 m (3,497 ft) above sea level. It is about 546 m (1,791 ft) above the ground around it. It is about 198 m (650 ft) higher than Uluru.